

Event Report

ASIA-PACIFIC
SUPERYACHT
SUMMIT
BY SUPERYACHT TIMES

2026

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Introduction

SuperYacht Times was thrilled to welcome nearly 200 delegates to Kobe, Japan for the third edition of the Asia-Pacific Superyacht Summit, marking the event's first move beyond Hong Kong after two successful editions. Kobe proved an inspired choice, a city where Japan's maritime heritage meets its growing place in the superyacht world. This year's event attracted international yacht owners and captains already exploring Japanese waters, alongside a strong turnout from Japanese authorities as well as delegates from across the global industry. Over two days of panels and Q&As, conversations dug deep into the questions that will shape the region's future, including infrastructure, regulation, market dynamics and local insights. And as ever in this industry, the networking opportunities proved just as valuable, with relationships built and new connections made.

Venue & Dates

Venue: La Suite Kobe Oceans Garden, Kobe, Japan

Dates: 7 and 8 May 2026



MERIJN DE WAARD

Founder & Director

merijn@superyachttimes.com

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Programme

Thursday, 7 May 2026

- 08:30 - 09:15** Welcome Coffee
- 09:15 - 09:30** Presenting the Asia Pacific Superyacht Report
- 09:30 - 10:10** Kobe as a regional gateway for superyacht operations
- 10:10 - 10:50** Developing Japan as a superyacht destination
- 10:50 - 11:30** Coffee Break
- 11:30 - 12:00** Understanding Japanese superyacht clients
- 12:00 - 12:40** How superyacht purchasing patterns are evolving in Asia-Pacific region
- 12:40 - 13:05** Inside Japan's yachting industry: Culture, experience and challenges
- 13:10 - 14:30** Lunch
- 14:30 - 15:10** Q&A with Stuart Gibson owner of 35.2-metre Sunseeker yacht Skye
- 15:10 - 16:00** Why International shipyards are investing in the Asia-Pacific
- 16:00 - 16:30** The Australia playbook for yacht building in Asia-Pacific
- 16:30 - 17:30** Drinks
- 19:00 - 22:30** APSS Dinner | La Terrace Hall, La Suite Le Pan Building

Friday, 8 May 2026

- 08:45 - 09:45** Welcome Coffee
- 09:45 - 10:30** Developing marinas for superyacht operations in Asia-Pacific region
- 10:30 - 11:15** Operating yachts in Asia-Pacific: insurance, compliance and risk
- 11:15 - 12:00** Coffee Break
- 12:00 - 12:30** Captain Christoph Schaefer on cruising in Asia
- 12:30 - 13:10** The Pacific cruising corridor:
Connecting Australia, New Zealand and the Islands
- 13:10 - 14:30** Lunch
- 14:30 - 15:15** Inside Japanese business culture and UHNW trends
- 15:15 - 15:30** Recap and final words from Merijn de Waard
- 15:30 - 16:30** Closing Drinks

Thursday, 7 May 2026

Welcome



**Merijn
de Waard**

Founder & Director of
SuperYacht Times

Presenting the Asia Pacific Superyacht Report



**Ralph
Dazert**

Head of Intelligence
at SuperYacht Times

Kobe as a regional gateway for superyacht operations



**Enrico
Chhibber**

Features Writer
at SuperYacht
Times



**Manabu
Kinoshita**

Hotel New
Awaji Group
& Awaji Island
Tourism Assn.



**Nigel
Beatty**

YachtZoo



**Makiya
Nambu**

Pasona Group



**Koji
Shirahase**

Port & Harbor
Bureau,
Kobe City



**Hiroshi
Taneike**

Shin Nishinomiya
Yacht Harbor Co.,
Ltd

Developing Japan as a superyacht destination



**Merijn
de Waard**

Founder &
Director of
SuperYacht Times



**Yukio
Shintani**

Creation Co.,
Ltd



**Toru
Nishio**

Kagawa Prefectural
Government



**Kenta
Inaba**

Superyacht
Logistics Japan



**Kirk
Patterson**

President of
Konpira Yacht
Services



**Yoshiteru
Sakaguchi**

Chugoku-Shikoku
Regional Environment
Office, Ministry of the
Environment, Japan

Q&A with Michael Breman: Understanding Japanese superyacht clients



Francesca Webster

Editor-in-Chief at SuperYacht Times



Michael Breman

Lürssen Yachts

How superyacht purchasing patterns are evolving in Asia-Pacific region



Ralph Dazert

Head of Intelligence at SuperYacht Times



Julien Solari

Camper & Nicholson's



Angel Zhou

Benetti



Nina Lee Boudoul

Sunreef Yachts

Inside Japan's yachting industry: Culture, experience and challenges



Enrico Chhibber

Features Writer at SuperYacht Times



Phillip Peatey

Global LLC

Q&A with Stuart Gibson: owner of 35.2-metre Sunseeker yacht Skye



Francesca Webster

Editor-in-Chief at SuperYacht Times



Stuart Gibson

Owner
M/Y Skye

Why International shipyards are investing in the Asia-Pacific



Ralph Dazert

Head of Intelligence at SYT



Erwin Bamps

Gulf Craft Group



Andrea Antichi

Azimut Yachts



Gianmaria Saporiti

Sanlorenzo APAC



Rob Luijendijk

Damen Yachting

The Australia playbook for yacht building in Asia-Pacific



Justin Ratcliffe

Associate Editor at SuperYacht Times



David Good

Australian International Marine Export Group



Chris Blackwell

Echo Yachts



Friday, 8 May 2026

Developing marinas for superyacht operations in Asia-Pacific region



Enrico Chhibber

Writer at SuperYacht Times



Cissy Chan

Airport Authority Hong Kong



Ruurd van Putten

Marinetek



Robin Shellcock

Superyacht Captain

Operating yachts in Asia-Pacific: insurance, compliance and risk



Francesca Webster

Editor-in-Chief at SuperYacht Times



Martin Baum

Pantaenius



Zachary Bailey

Indo-Pacific Solutions



James Drysdale

Howden



Edward Majdalany

Zairos



Alaettin Sevim

FEMA Marine

Captain Christoph Schaefer on cruising in Asia



Justin Ratcliffe

Associate Editor at SuperYacht Times



Christoph Schaefer

Captain M/Y V6

The Pacific cruising corridor: Connecting Australia, New Zealand and the Islands



**Francesca
Webster**

Editor-in-Chief
at SuperYacht
Times



**Cameron
Bray**

The Superyacht
People



**Justin
Bourgeois**

S/Y Kawil

Q&A with Chiaki Nagato: Inside Japanese business culture and UHNW trends



**Enrico
Chhibber**

SuperYacht
Times



**Chiaki
Nagato**

Japanese
entrepreneur

Recap and final words from Merijn de Waard



**Merijn
de Waard**

Founder &
Director of
SuperYacht Times



Delegates

We are proud to have welcomed delegates from these leading industry companies, in addition to many more owner's representatives, family offices, captains, brokers and shipyards, with 191 attendees



Sponsors

The Asia-Pacific Superyacht Summit 2026 could not be held without our sponsors and we are very grateful for their support.

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Supporting Partner



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In Numbers

191

Attendees

144

Asia-Pacific attendees

47

International Attendees

34

Speakers

14h 30m

Hours of networking

8h 50m

Hours of panels & talks

31

Number of sponsors

6,540

Web page visits

19

Articles on SYT

340+

Social Media posts

2.4M

Reach on Instagram (30 days)

833,500

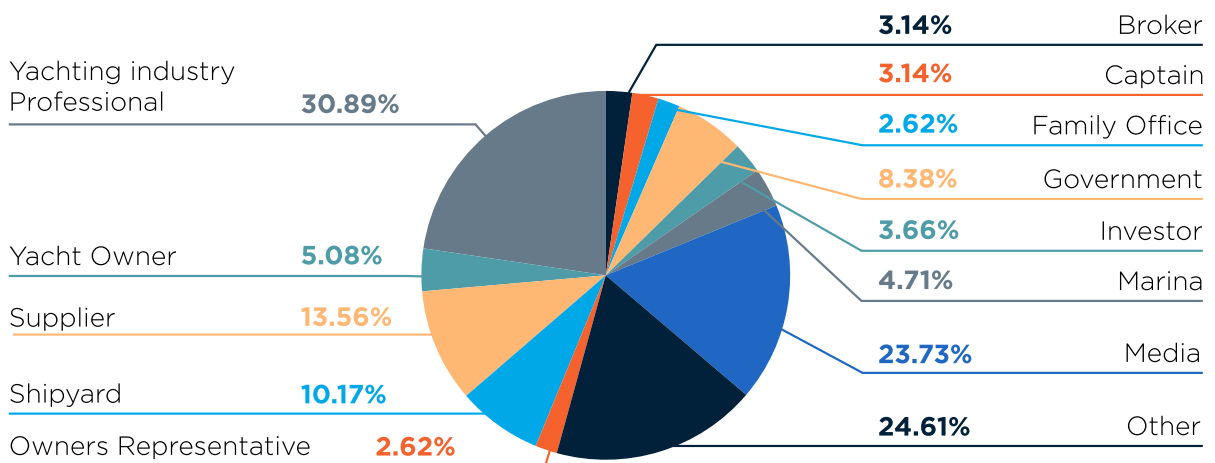
Reach on LinkedIn (30 days)

335,000

Asia-Pacific Summit
Webbanner impressions

20,250

Print reach
(*How to Build It* & SYT Newspapers)



Gallery









Asia-Pacific Superyacht Summit Dinner

Following a highly successful first day on Thursday, more than 146 guests attended the dinner at La Suite Le Pan Building, just a five-minute walk from the main venue. Attendees arrived for welcome drinks at the Rooftop Bar before sitting down to a full-course meal in La Terrace Hall.

146 Guests





Promotion: SYT Newspaper

SUMMER 2026 | SYT



Project Life
 Builder: Benetti
 Volume: 2,600GT
 Exterior: Espen Øino
 Interior: Francois Zuretti
 Naval Architect: Benetti

sculpted stone bathtub in... anchoring the space in... unmistakably luxurious. Pulling part of Øino's exterior... But unusual in a bathroom... are a cinematic quality... private owner's suite... private foredeck and... direct access to the side... benefits from natural cross... and the option to sleep... conditioning - a small but... it in a project focused on... floor living is prioritized at... Above the beach club, the... lift is designed as a social... a 6-metre, glass-bottomed... centre surrounded by a wet... and plush, overstuffed... ing and benches are built into... reflecting how guests actually... onboard yachts - sitting... mixing. The area is large... host live music or events... its role as a social hub... deliberately decentralised. On... deck there is an open-air... ce equipped with a live-... cooking setup - more commonly seen... on much larger yachts. Practical work... surfaces and a large pantry ensure... good crew ergonomics, while guest-... facing counters align with table height... allowing everyone to interact at the... same level.
 "People rarely dine as a full group for... every meal," Øino explains. "You need... flexibility; protection from sun and... wind, and proximity to service areas -... especially for charter."
A new direction
 "What's exciting about this collaboration... is that it's already coming to life... Benetti have started engineering the... first in the Life series ready for a new... owner to step in," concludes Burgess... partner, Crispin Baynes.
 For Benetti, it establishes a new... benchmark, while for Øino and Zuretti... it demonstrates the power of creative... collaboration across disciplines. And... for the market, it represents a product... conceived for today's more mellow... lifestyle albeit: open, fluid, light-filled... and discreetly sophisticated. ●




ASIA-PACIFIC SUPERYACHT SUMMIT 2026
 BY SUPERYACHT TIMES

7 & 8 May 2026

Kobe - Japan

Buy your tickets now
superyachttimes.com

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Destination Partner: **KOBE**

Supporting Partners: **APSA**

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Promotion: *How to Build It*

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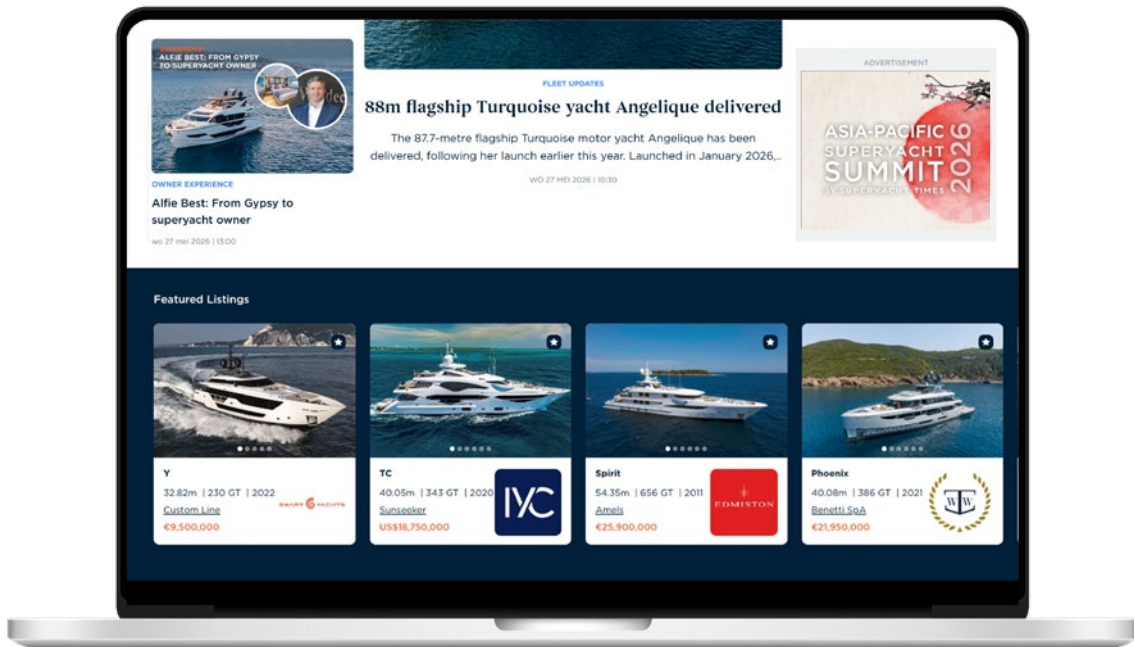
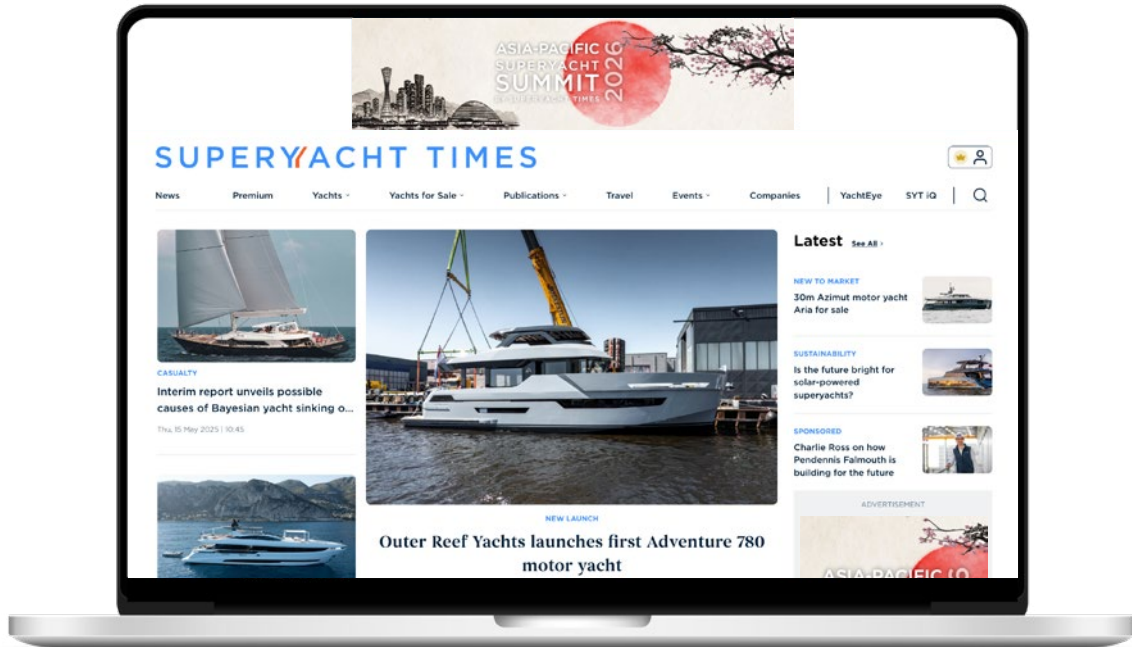


Nuclear Is Near

Despite the apparent hurdles, new technology and a proactive approach are paving the way for the first nuclear superyacht by 2030.

BY CHARLOTTE THOMAS

Promotion: Website banners



Thank you note

A huge thank you to all our event sponsors, including patron FEMA Marine, event partners Benetti and Damen Yachting, and destination partner Kobe, along with Hiroshi Sakamoto and his team at The Inland Sea, Setouchi Tourism Authority. We're very grateful for your support. Thanks also to all the attendees and panellists for getting behind this year's event. The response from across the industry has been brilliant, and we're already looking forward to the next one.

SuperYacht Times B.V.

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